

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 9 as provided below.

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inferring natural eye color of a human subject from a nucleic acid sample of the subject, comprising:
 - (a) identifying in the nucleic acid sample at least one nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) of an oculocutaneous albinism II (OCA2) gene, and
 - (b) comparing the identified at least one nucleotide occurrence with known nucleotide occurrences of eye color related SNPs associated with known eye colors,wherein the SNP comprises: nucleotide 426 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein a G residue indicates an increased likelihood of a lighter eye shade; nucleotide 497 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein a T residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; nucleotide 68 of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein a T residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; nucleotide 171 of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein a T residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; nucleotide 533 of SEQ ID NO:5, wherein a C residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; nucleotide 369 of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein a C residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; or nucleotide 509 of SEQ ID NO:7, wherein a C residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade, wherein the lighter eye shade comprises green or blue, and wherein the darker eye shade comprises brown or hazel, thereby inferring natural eye color of the subject.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, which comprises identifying in the nucleic acid sample nucleotide occurrences of at least two eye color related SNPs of the OCA2 gene.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the SNP comprises an eye color related haplotype allele.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying in the nucleic acid sample at least one nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP of a tyrosinase-related protein 1 (TYRP1) gene, wherein the SNP comprises: nucleotide 172 of SEQ ID NO:8, wherein a C residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; nucleotide 181 of SEQ ID NO:9, wherein a G residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade; nucleotide 360 of SEQ ID NO:10, wherein a C residue indicates an increased likelihood of a darker eye shade.
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying in the nucleic acid sample at least one nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP comprising nucleotide 21 as set forth in any of SEQ ID NOS:26 to 36 and 37 to 48, or nucleotide 26 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:37.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]]1, wherein the known nucleotide occurrences of the eye color related SNPs associated with known eye colors are contained in a database.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the comparing is performed using a computer.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]]1, wherein each of the known nucleotide occurrences of the eye color related SNPs associated with a known eye color is further associated with a photograph of a person from whom a known nucleotide occurrence was determined.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the photograph comprises a digital photograph.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein digital information comprising the digital photograph is contained in a database.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising identifying a photograph of a person having a known nucleotide occurrence corresponding to the nucleotide occurrence of the eye color related SNP identified in the nucleic acid sample of the subject.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein identifying the photograph comprises scanning a database comprising a plurality of files, each file comprising digital information corresponding to a digital photograph of a person having a known nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP, and identifying at least one photograph of a person having a known nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP associated with a known eye color that corresponds to a nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNPs identified in the nucleic acid sample of the subject.
14. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture, comprising at least one photograph of a person having a known nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP associated with a known eye color.
15. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 14, which is contained in a file.
16. (Withdrawn) A plurality of files comprising the article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein files of the plurality comprise at least one photograph of a person having a known nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP associated with a known eye color.
17. (Withdrawn) The file of claim 16, which comprises a plurality of photographs, wherein photographs of the plurality comprise a photograph of a person having a known nucleotide occurrence of an eye color related SNP associated with a known eye color.

18. (Withdrawn) The file of claim 17, wherein photographs of the plurality comprise photographs of different persons having the same known eye colors.
19. (Withdrawn) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the at least one photograph comprises a digital photograph.
20. (Withdrawn) The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the digital photograph comprises digital information.
21. (Withdrawn) A kit, comprising a plurality of hybridizing oligonucleotides, which comprise at least fifteen contiguous nucleotides of at least four polynucleotides as set forth in SEQ ID NOS:1 to 7, or polynucleotides complementary thereto.